

Your Questions Answered

Online Pre-Sessional English Programme FAQ

We know that you'll have questions about your programme, digital learning, and on how teaching and assessment will work so we have answered a few of the most common questions for you below. If you have any further questions about the programme, don't hesitate to get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

How will I register on my programme and what areas will be covered?

Your welcome and registration activities will take place on the Thursday and Friday before teaching starts and will be hosted via the online video conferencing service Zoom. A week prior to starting your programme, you will receive a link from the College Services team to invite you to join these sessions and so it is important that you confirm the email address used on your application is correct and that you check it regularly in the run up to the start of your course, including in your junk mail folder. Further details about Zoom are shared in a section below.

On the first day of your Welcome and Registration you will get to e-meet meet the staff who will be assisting you throughout your programme so you know who to contact for any enquiries that you may have. Following this, you will be invited to a session to go through the documents you will need to complete and afterwards be appointed a personal adviser who will help you to complete your registration.

You will also be scheduled to join a variety of sessions to cover areas that will assist you in having the best possible start to your programme an example of what your first few days will look like is in the table below:

Thursday		Friday	
10.00 – 11.00	Welcome introduction from staff	9.00 – 9.30	Your personal adviser will complete your registration with you online
11.00 – 12.00	How to complete registration documents	10.00 – 11.00	College Services Introduction – Wellbeing, Support, Communications and Expectations
12.00 – 13.00	Setting up your Essex IT accounts and using Zoom	11.00 – 12.00	Using the VLE
13.00 – 14.00	Q & A session - Your chance to ask any question you may have at this point	13.00 – 14.00	Discovering more about the University of Essex and the services available
14.00 – 16.00	Free time to complete and prepare your documents for the next day	14.00 – 15.00	You will receive your timetable plus a further opportunity to discuss with staff any questions you have
16.00 – 17.00	Fun group activity online to test you understanding and to get to know classmates	15.00 – 16.00	Group activity to mark the completion of your registration

How will I access my course?

You will be provided with a variety of materials for each of your modules and these will be hosted on our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) that you will be given access to during your enrolment and induction

activities at the start of your course. In addition to having access to learning materials through our VLE, you will also be provided with e-books to use throughout your programme.

The classes will be run via a digital platform that some of you may already be familiar with named Zoom which will also be covered during your induction activities. A link to each class will be provided to you directly by your tutors in the form of a calendar invite at the start of your course.

What are the computer requirements?

Zoom is very easy to use and is currently accessible from all over the globe provided you have a stable broadband connection in addition to a device with speakers, a microphone and a webcam. It is accessible on many different devices and operating systems and full details can be found [here](#) on the Zoom website.

What will my timetable look like?

You will be scheduled for 16 hours per week of classes/activities and this will look slightly different depending on the exact programme that you are on and it is expected that you attend all classes. We have provided a typical timetable below showing how the classes may be distributed across the week and the minimum amount of time you should be spending on self-study to review and practice what you have learned each day. While the classes will be at fixed time, students will be able to do self-study at times that are convenient to them.

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00 (GMT)	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class
10:00 -11:00 (GMT)					
11:00-12:00 (GMT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:00-1:00 (GMT)	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class
1:00-2:00 (GMT)		Break	Break	Break	Break
2:00-3:00 (GMT)	Break	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study
3:00-4:00 (GMT)	Self-Study				
4:00-5:00 (GMT)					

Students will join the programmes from all over the world and therefore live delivery will typically take place in UK working hours.

Your timetable will be provided to you by email after you have completed your enrolment activities.

How will student attendance and engagement be monitored?

Pre-Sessional English programmes are fast paced, intensive and require students to participate fully at all times if they are to achieve the language improvements required to meet the conditions of their offer from the University. As a result, attendance will be taken for every class and tutors will also monitor engagement with VLE based content as well as the submission of all assigned work.

How will students be assessed and take exams if all learning is online?

Students will be assessed formally and informally throughout the programme based on the 4 key skills which will be developed throughout the course. These skills are; Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, and will be assessed by different modes of assessment, for example; online discussions, written coursework, presentations, one-to-one speaking exams and comprehension exercises.